



TECHNOLOGY
CENTRE PRAGUE

ERA CHAIRS 2023 CALL AND EVALUATORS' MOST FREQUENT COMMENTS

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Transnational seminar on Excellence Hubs and ERA
Chairs calls, Prague 17 October 2023



WORK PROGRAMME WIDERA 2023 – 2024

Date of publication: 6 December 2022

Overall budget: M€ 900,48

- WP parts:

- – Introduction: Overall description of common policy objectives and rationale based on the specific programme and strategic plan (**description of key objectives**)

- Destination 1: Improved access to excellence (ACCESS)

- Introduction including Expected impacts
- Calls (instruments) description

- – **Destination 2: Attracting and mobilising the best talents (TALENTS)**

- Introduction including **Expected impacts**
- **Calls (instruments) description**

ERA CHAIRS 2023

- Destination 3: Reforming and enhancing the EU research and innovation system (ERA)

- Introduction including 4 strands and Expected impacts
- Call topics description

- Other actions not subject to calls for proposals (grants to identified beneficiaries, **prizes**, experts contracts, public procurement, indirect management)

SIX KEY OBJECTIVES IN WP 2023 - 2024

1. **Encourage institutional reforms and transformation processes** of the R&I system at national and regional level in Widening countries in line with ERA principles;
2. **Mobilise national investments** in R&I capacity in Widening countries;
3. **Raise the bar for excellence** of R&I actors in Widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions ('win-win situation');
4. **Increase number of participations and success rates** of widening actors in research and innovation projects in other parts of Horizon Europe (notably in Pillars 2 and 3);
5. **Promote the creation of new innovation ecosystems** and scale up existing ones by a set of measures, which include place-based and international collaboration between academia and business in Widening countries;
6. **Foster brain circulation**, including inter-sectoral mobility for researchers and innovators and turn it into brain gain for Widening countries.

DESTINATION 2 – SEVEN EXPECTED IMPACTS

1. **Effective institutional reforms** in research institutions in Widening countries;
2. Better use of existing **research infrastructures**;
3. **Excellent talents attracted** in institutions and research infrastructures;
4. **Reverted brain drain**;
5. Improved linkages and **increased mobility between academia and business**, notably by overcoming sectoral barriers;
6. **Free circulation of knowledge** and expertise in line with ERA priorities;
7. Improved **gender balance and equal opportunities**.

CALLS AND DEADLINES 2023 - 2024

DESTINATION 1 (ACCESS)

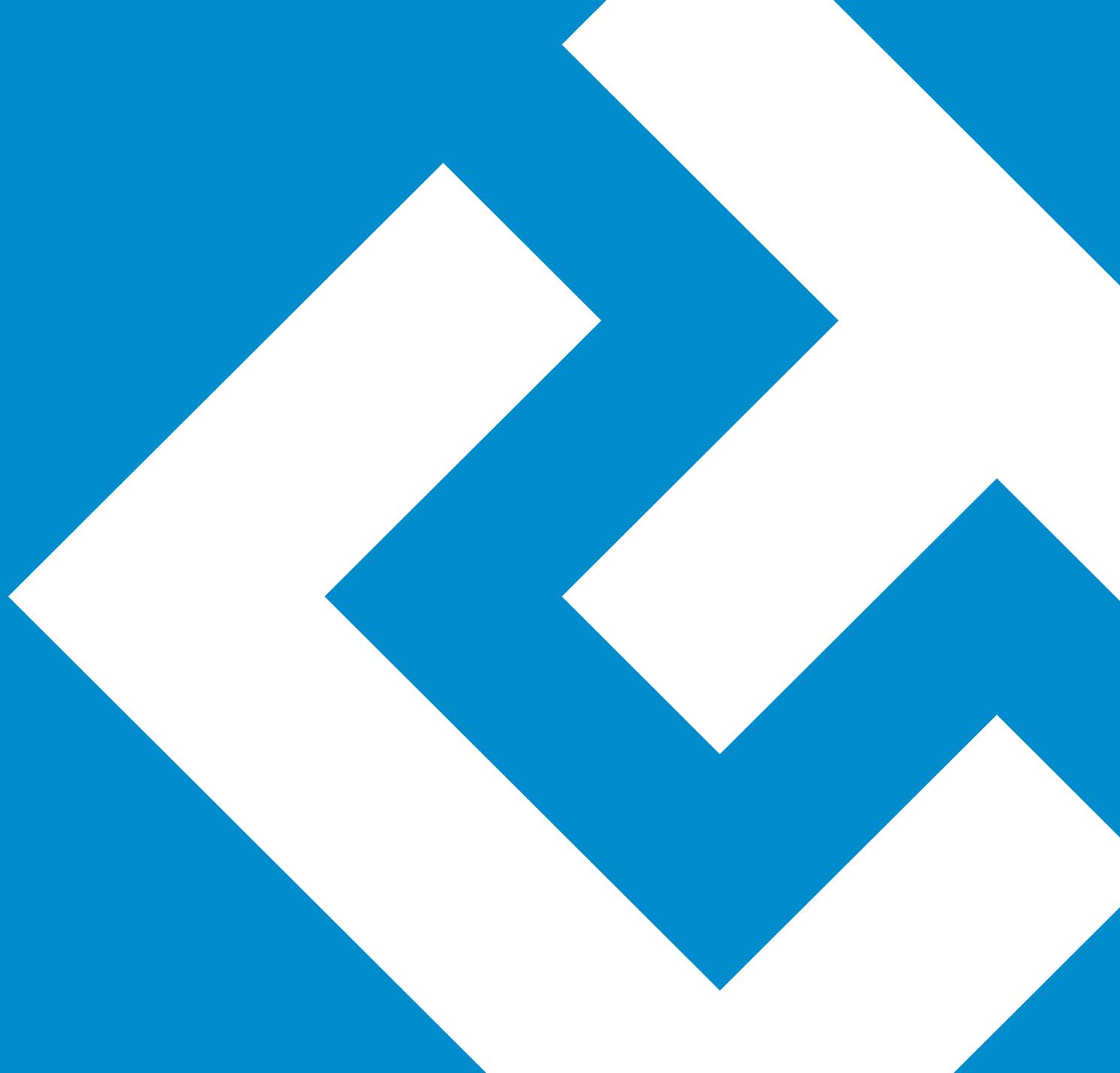
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01 TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE	12 Apr 2023 (1st stage) 07 Mar 2024 (2 nd stage)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 TWINNING	28 Sep 2023
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-03 EUROPEAN EXCELENCE INITIATIVE	12 Apr 2023
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04 PATHWAYS TO SYNERGIES	28 Sep 2023
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-05 DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION SUPPORT FACILITY	28 Sep 2023
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06 HOP-ON FACILITY	28 Sep 2023 26 Sep 2024
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07 EXCELLENCE HUBS	07 Mar 2024

DESTINATION 2 (TALENTS)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01 ERA CHAIRS	07 Mar 2024
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-02 ERA FELLOWSHIPS (MSCA)	13 Sep 2023
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-03 ERA FELLOWSHIPS (MSCA)	11 Sep 2024
HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS-04 ERA TALENTS	26 Sep 2024

ERA CHAIRS 2023

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INTRODUCTION



CONTEXT AND AIM

- Progress towards **more and better links between research and innovation actors across the ERA** and beyond is a requirement if Europe as a whole is to capitalise on excellence from across the continent
- **Foster brain circulation** for researchers and innovators – attracting in a sustainable manner outstanding scientists and innovators to universities or Research organisations in catching up countries and regions
- **Impact on the culture and performance of host institutions**
- Create a **permanent and excellent research group** in the chosen scientific field ensuring excellence, visibility and better integration in the ERA, as well as **fostering competitiveness** in research funding and promoting **institutional reforms** aligned with ERA priorities



POLICY DOCUMENTS

ERA COMMUNICATION



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
30.9.2020

COM(2020) 628
final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

A new ERA for Research and Innovation

{SWD(2020) 214 final}

NEW EUROPEAN INNOVATION AGENDA



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
5.7.2022

COM(2022) 332
final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

A New European Innovation Agenda

{SWD(2022) 187 final}

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (1)

ELIGIBILITY

- Participation as **coordinators** is limited to legal entities established in **Widening countries** (as defined in the Horizon Europe regulation)
- To allow for the assessment of the commitment of the future ERA Chair holder and of the coordinator institution, **proposals must include**:
 - a) **letter signed by the prospective ERA Chair holder** expressing his/her commitment to the proposal and willingness to take on the underlying tasks and obligations;
 - b) **letter from the head of the coordinator institution** committing to the proposal and stating that the ERA Chair holder will receive adequate support to take on her/his tasks and duties including, for example, access to research facilities, supervision of researchers, teaching duties (if any) and capacity to apply freely to national and international funding.
- **Composition, levels of remuneration and timeline** of implementation of the **ERA Chair holder research team** will be indicated
- **Appointment of team members** must follow an open, transparent and merit-based recruitment process with no more than 50% of the team appointees having previous contractual links with the coordinator.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (2)

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

- Eligible costs take the form of a **lump sum**

EXPECTED EU CONTRIBUTION PER PROJECT

- EC estimates that an EU contribution of between **EUR 1.50 and 2.50 million** would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts

TOTAL INDICATIVE BUDGET

- Total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 97.00 million

TYPE OF ACTION

- Coordination and Support Actions

ERA CHAIRS 2023

BASIC INFORMATION

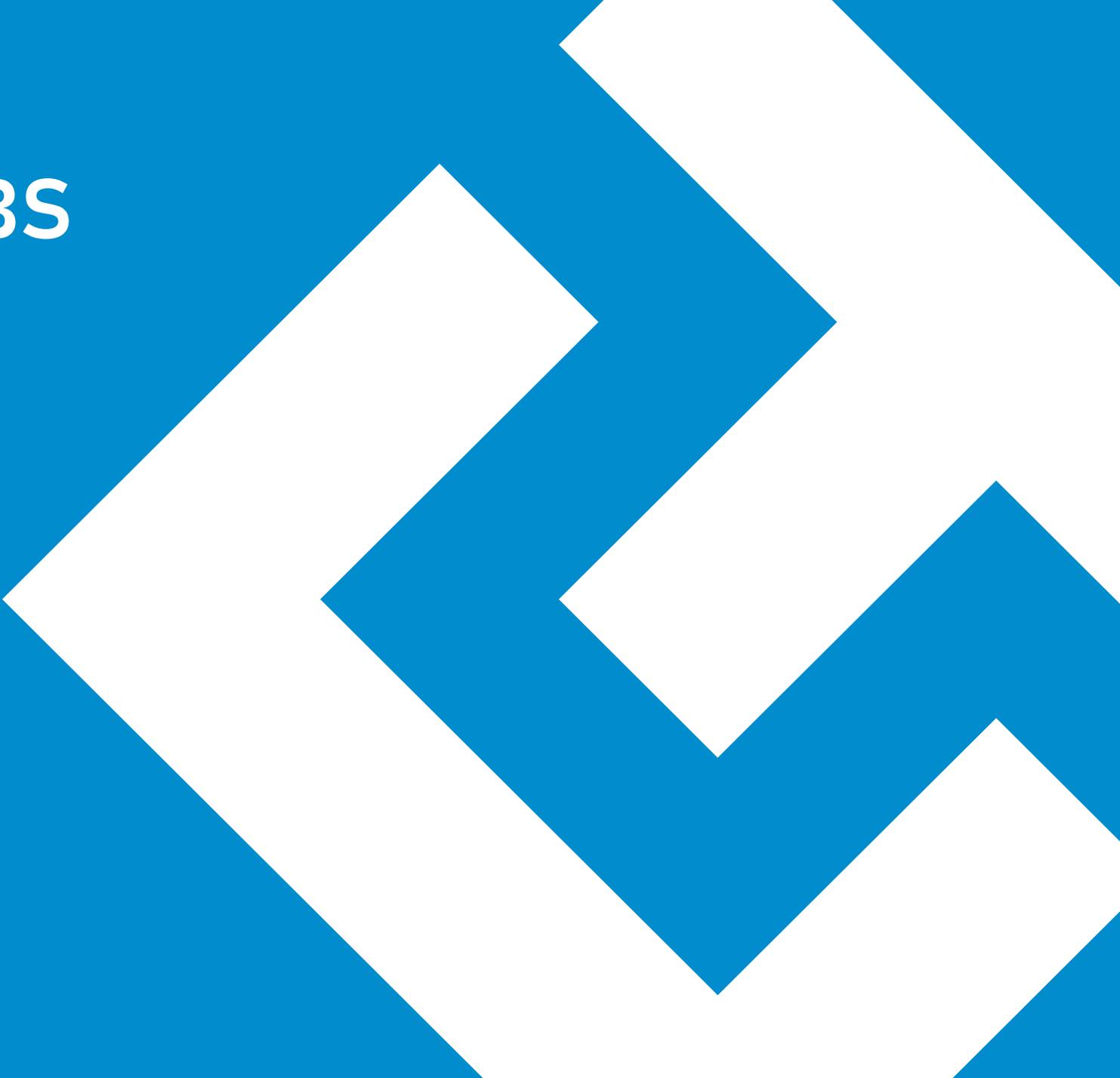
- MAIN AIM -- bring **outstanding academics with proven research excellence and management skills** to universities and research institutions (brain gain)
- **Mono beneficiary action with identified future ERA Chair holder**
- **Research costs eligible up to 10%** of the EU contribution
- Proposals must include:
 - a letter signed by the prospective ERA Chair holder expressing his/her commitment
 - a letter from the head of the coordinator institution
 - Curriculum Vitae in Europass form of the future ERA Chair holder (additional document)

CALL OVERVIEW

- HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01
- **Opening: 28 September 2023**
- **Deadline: 7 March 2024**
- Overall indicative budget: M€ 97
- Budget per project: M€ 1,5 – 2,5
- **Eligible costs take form of a lump sum** **NEW**
- Project duration: up to 5 years
- Expected no. of projects: 45

EXCELLENCE HUBS 2023

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PROPOSAL CONTENT

The right side of the page features a large, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of several overlapping, nested shapes that resemble a stylized 'E' or a series of chevrons. The shapes are filled with a vibrant blue color, while the spaces between them are white. The overall effect is a dynamic, modern graphic design.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES 1

Projects are expected to contribute to some of the following outcomes:

At system level (7)

1. **Increase in number of R&I talents** moving to host organisations in Widening countries
2. Increase in **international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility** of researchers and innovators
3. Encouraging **institutional reforms** in research institutions and in the national R&I system in Widening countries
4. Strengthening of Widening countries' **human capital base** in R&I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers and innovators
5. Better **communication of R&I results to society**
6. **Better quality and capacity of research and innovation** contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth;
7. **Improved excellence capacity and resources** in Widening countries and close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES 2

Projects are expected to contribute to some of the following outcomes:

At organisational level (5)

1. **Research excellence** of the institution in the specific fields covered by the ERA Chair holder
2. **Increased attractiveness** of the institution for internationally excellent and mobile researchers
3. Creation of a **permanent and excellent research group** in the chosen scientific field with a spill-over effect on the institution
4. Improved capability to **succeed in competitive research funding** in the EU and globally, at least, in the fields of choice
5. Greater **contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society**.

PAY ATTENTION TO

- The **composition, levels of remuneration and timeline of implementation of the ERA Chair holder research team** should be indicated
- Selection of personnel to the research team is to be conducted by an **international recruitment panel led by the ERA Chair** and outlined in proposals
- Team members should be appointed after an open, **transparent and merit-based recruitment process** with no more than 50% of the team appointees having previous contractual links with the coordinator
- Specific attention should be paid to **gender equality objectives**, in line with the organisations' commitments through their adopted gender equality plans, and in line with ERA objectives, as far as appropriate.



TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

- Proposals are submitted by research organisations together with the future ERA Chair holder who should be an outstanding researcher and/or innovator in the chosen scientific domain (scientific field can be any domain of research and Innovation)
- ERA Chair holders can be citizens of any country in the world
- Demonstrate that ERA Chair research team will have conditions to thrive after the end of the project and include the appointment of this new research group leader on a permanent basis during the initial 3 years (ERA Chair holder can apply as well) – this is to be conducted through an open recruitment procedure to be monitored by the European Commission.
- ERA Chair holder should have a position allowing him to make appropriate resource allocation decisions, supervise team members and freely apply for research funding
- He/she might move on a temporary or permanent basis to the coordinator's premises. Secondments or any other legal arrangements (e.g., leave without pay, sabbatical licences) are possible including part-time work and multiple stays. All contractual arrangements and the timeline of ERA Chairs stays should be indicated as well as the salary, travel and daily allowances and/or other perks to be offered.

DO NOT FORGET TO

- Illustrate **quantitatively and qualitatively the expected potential impact** – expected results should be visible in terms of
 - new local and international research and innovation partnerships
 - institutional and/or R&I system changes (various levels)
 - increased research intensity (i.e., new scientific publications directly linked to the project's area
 - protected IPR) and
 - best research management practices

(+ choose any additional relevant indicators that will be used for measuring the impacts achieved)
- **Two letters must be part of the proposal:**
 1. A letter signed by the future ERA Chair holder with his/her commitment and willingness to take on the underlying tasks and obligations
 2. A letter from the head of the coordinating institution committing to the proposal and stating that the ERA Chair holder will receive adequate support to take on her/his tasks and duties including, e.g., access to research facilities, supervision of researchers, teaching duties (if any) and capacity to apply freely to national and international funding

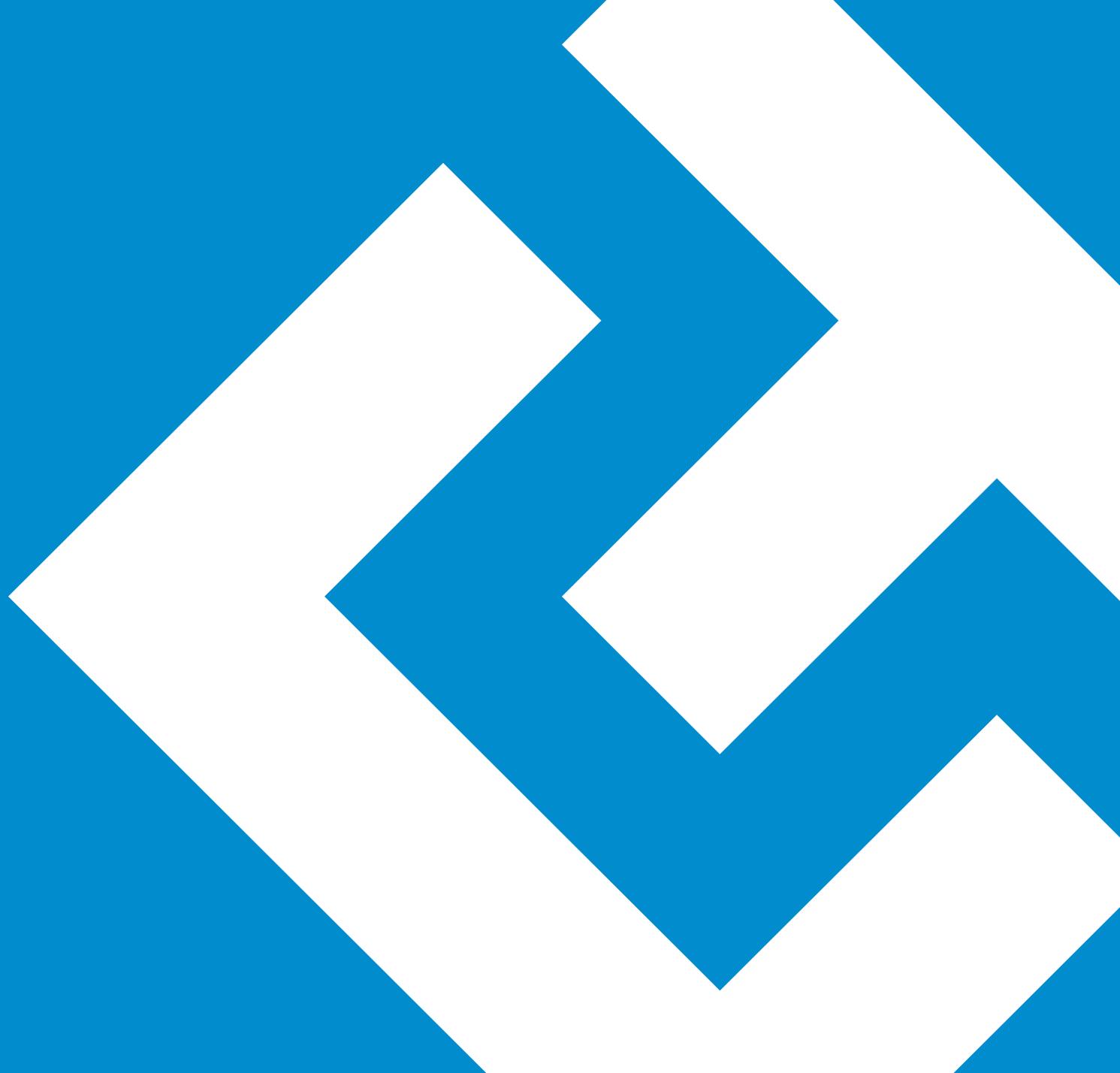
FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Grant covers expenses related to the ERA Chair holder and a number of team members (**e.g., their salaries, recruitment costs, administrative costs, travel and subsistence costs**) and **research costs up to 10% of the EU contribution**
- Outline the measures aimed at introducing structural changes in the institution of the Widening country (**e.g., costs for trainings, meetings, publications and managing IPR**)
- Describe **any relevant investments** of the coordinator in research projects, facilities and infrastructures and how those will be achieved and/or a **better use of the installed research capacity (in particular of EU co-funded research infrastructures & facilities)**



ERA CHAIRS 2023

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PROPOSAL TEMPLATE



CSA SPECIAL TEMPLATE

30 pages limit for Part B, 33 pages
in case of lump sum funding model

Structure of the Proposal

- **Part A** is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the **Funding & Tenders Portal**. The participants can update the information in the submission system **at any time before final submission**
- **Part B** of the proposal is the **narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion**. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates **downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic**.



Horizon Europe Programme

Specific Application Form (HE CSA)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01: ERA
Chairs

Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 1.0
13 July 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS – PART A

ncpwideranet.eu

Administrative Forms

Part A



PART B: IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- The **structure of the template must be followed** - it has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the experts to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria (Sections 1 Excellence, 2 Impact and 3 Implementation)
- After the deadline, **excess pages** (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts.
- The proposal is a **self-contained document** - experts are instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal
- **DEFINITIONS** (critical risk, deliverable, impacts, milestones, objectives, outcomes, pathway to impact, research output, results, Technology Readiness Level)

PART B: TAGS IN THE TEMPLATE

This document is tagged. Be careful not to delete the tags; they are needed for processing.

- The use of electronic tags in proposal templates has been applied at corporate level to most of the programmes funded by the European Commission.
- It aims to facilitate plagiarism checks, for purely internal processing purposes, by separating the different sections of a proposal. It has neither been used nor intended to be used during the evaluations.
- A general FAQ on the topic is planned to be published in the FTO Portal by DG RTD.
- Applicants will not be penalised in any way in case they delete a tag by mistake

PART B – TEMPLATE

- 1 cover page
- 20 pages of instructions with a watermark (read carefully, do not fill your text here and remove them all before submitting)
- 9 pages of proposal itself (should be without watermark, **but it appears on page 7 – please remove the watermark yourselves**)

PART B: STRUCTURE

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL

List of participants (table)

- 1. Excellence**
 - 1.1 Objectives**
 - 1.2 Coordination and/or support measures and methodology**
- 2. Impact**
 - 2.1 Project's pathways towards impact**
 - 2.2 Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication**
 - 2.3 Summary KEY ELEMENT OF THE IMPACT SECTION**
- 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
 - 3.1 Work plan and resources**
 - 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole**

TABLES FOR SECTION 3.1

- Table 3.1a:** List of work packages
- Table 3.1b:** Work package description
- Table 3.1c:** List of Deliverables
- Table 3.1d:** List of milestones |
- Table 3.1e:** Critical risks for implementation
- Table 3.1f:** Summary of staff effort
- Table 3.1g:** ‘Subcontracting costs’ items
- Table 3.1h:** ‘Purchase costs’ items (travel and subsistence, equipment and other goods, works and services)
- Table 3.1i:** ‘Other costs categories’ items (e.g. internally invoiced goods and services)
- Table 3.1j:** ‘In-kind contributions’ provided by third parties
- Table 3.1k:** Research Component **NEW**

TABLE 3.1K – RESEARCH COMPONENT

EU Grants: Application form (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01: ERA Chairs): V1.0 – 13.07.2023

Table 3.1k: Research Component

<input type="checkbox"/> Have you included a research component in your project?	Yes/No
If YES	
Please indicate the WP and/or tasks which will be dedicated to research	
Please confirm that the research component does not exceed 10% of the total Horizon Europe grant amount	Yes/No
Please indicate the total amount of budget allocated to the research activities	EUR
For each Beneficiary (including the Coordinator), please indicate the amount of budget allocated to research:	
Beneficiary 1	EUR

TABLES - IMPORTANT CHANGES

- Table 3.1b: Work package description

Participants involved in each WP and their efforts are shown in table 3.1f. Lead participant and starting and end date of each WP are shown in table 3.1a.)

For each work package: |

Work package number	
Work package title	



Objectives

Description of work

Deliverables linked to each WP are listed in table 3.1c (no need to repeat the information here)



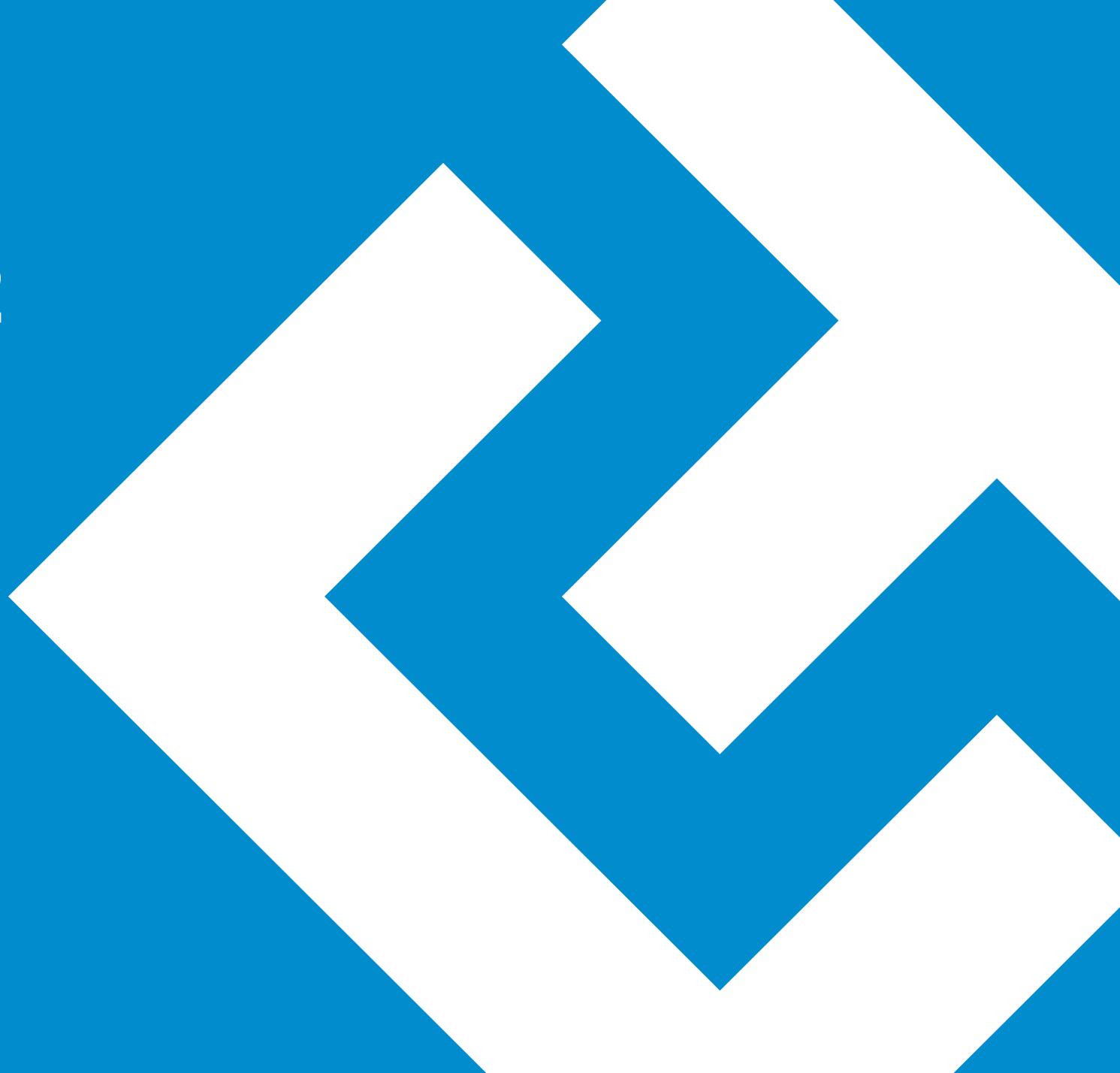
A6 ✕ ✓ fx Instructions

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Horizon Europe Programme Detailed lump sum budget	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Generate the Excel file in macro-free format Ready for the online submission system </div>		
2					
3					
4					
5					
6	Instructions				
7	Go to Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities list	<i>! Double click buttons !</i>		Go to Work packages list	
8	<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1; padding: 5px;"> <p>This workbook enables you to present the detailed estimation of costs of your lump sum project and to calculate the lump sum breakdown per beneficiary and per work package. It must be uploaded as an additional document at the 'Proposal forms' step of proposal submission. This is mandatory. If you do not upload the Excel workbook, the proposal submission will be blocked.</p> <p>You must not change the structure of this workbook (e.g., do not add, remove or modify rows, columns or tabs).</p> <p>Comprehensive guidance and background on lump sum funding under Horizon Europe is available on the Funding & Tenders Portal. To get started, we recommend to read the guide Lump sum funding – what do I need to know. This includes details on how to complete this Excel workbook. The weblinks are provided in column E.</p> <p>We recommend using Excel 2013 (Windows) / Excel 2016 (Mac OS) or more recent.</p> <p>The only currency used in this workbook is EURO (€).</p> <p>You must complete the following sheets: 'BE list' – 'WP list' – 'BEx' (one sheet for each beneficiary) – 'Depreciation costs' (if any). The appropriate number of individual beneficiary sheets ('BEx') will be generated automatically with data from the 'BE list' and 'WP list' sheets.</p> <p>The information in this workbook must correspond to the main proposal. For example, the list of beneficiaries and the list of work packages must be the same. Likewise, the tables in section 3.1 of Part B of the proposal must be in line with this workbook (e.g., table 3.1h 'purchase costs', and table 3.1i</p> </div> </div>				
9					
	Instructions BE list WP list Lump sum breakdown Person-months overview Summary per WP BE1 Depreciation costs Any cor ...				



ERA CHAIRS 2022

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EVALUATORS' MOST FREQUENT
COMMENTS



EC STANDARD BRIEFING FOR EVALUATORS



ASPECTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT 1

SECTION 1 – EXCELLENCE

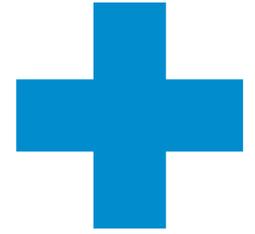
■ Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives

- ✓ Are they clear and pertinent to the topic?
- ✓ Are they measurable and verifiable?
- ✓ Are they realistically achievable?
- ✓ Is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-the-art?

■ Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures including soundness of methodology

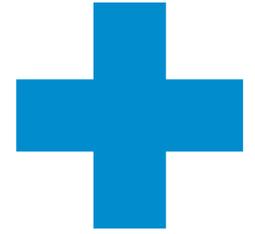
- ✓ Is the methodology (i.e. the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin the work) clear and sound?
- ✓ Has the gender dimension in research and innovation content been properly taken into account?
- ✓ Are open science practices implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology?
- ✓ Is the research data management properly addressed?

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Objectives of the proposal are wholly in line with the call topic.** Planned actions such as enhancing excellence capacity by employing early stage researchers, promoting international mobility and improving communication of R&I results to society are all very well considered and consistent with the aims of this work programme
- **Scientific excellence of the ERA chair holder is very clearly demonstrated** - experience and expertise in attracting research funding and participating in technology transfer activities are of particular merit in this respect
- **Means by which the proposed research group will be established and operated is very well described** and necessary infrastructure for their envisaged activities is also clearly available
- **Objectives are clearly achievable** due to the established scientific excellence of the involved partners, their previous collaboration experience, as well as the stated willingness of the hosting institution's management to undertake institutional reforms and to establish a permanent position to ensure the sustainability
- **Links with other research groups in the host institution are very well considered**

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Proposed coordination and support actions are comprehensive, excellent and well presented through a SWOT analysis**, e.g., institutional weakness in commercialising research outputs is fully recognised and will clearly be addressed through the proposed ERA chair's experience as well as plans to improve and intensify contacts with industry
- **Proposal is credible in describing effective activities and facilities** for supporting the coordinator and upgrading the current situation, i.e. as concerns improving working conditions, collaborations with public and private sectors, networking with national and international groups. It will end up by constructing a sustainable and visible research infrastructure and fostering the competitiveness in research funding
- Proposal **clearly and in a very good way addresses institutional reforms and outlines the compliance of arrangements with ERA priorities** as e.g. transparent recruitment processes and gender balance
- **Gender equality is very well addressed** through a well-outlined gender equality and internationalisation strategy which sets out specific goals and measures, the intention to hold annual training in these areas is also of merit

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- Although the scientific rationale and strategic plan for the proposed research aspects are well presented, the **relevance of the proposal to the leading objectives of the work program is not well justified**; for instance, the objectives in terms of increased competitiveness are not sufficiently elaborated
- Letter of commitment of the host Institution does state that the ERA Chair holder is to receive adequate support to take on his tasks and duties. However, the **host institution does not clearly declare that funds will be secured for ERA Chair** to create a permanent position for the newly established team's leader
- **Quality of the coordination and support measures are insufficiently addressed** because the proposal does not describe in a clear manner how the ERA Chair would contribute to upgrading the level of coordination in the widening country
- **Presented methodology is restricted to research aspects**
- **Insufficient gender considerations** are described

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- **Specific objectives are presented in a general manner.** Moreover, the proposal does not convincingly indicate how all of them can be measured, achieved and verified, which raises doubts about understanding precisely what the project wants to achieve, **proposal does not clearly indicate possible institutional reforms**
- Description of **activities and facilities for supporting the coordinator** and for upgrading from the current situation together with the establishment of a Centre of Excellence **is not fully elaborated**
- Challenges and the approaches to overcome them are not detailed; support measures are fairly addressed in the scientific aspects of the proposal, although **the proposal is mostly a research one**
- **Experience of the ERA Chair Holder is not fully demonstrated**, especially in those aspects such as education and training, conference organization or main high impact publications
- **Pertinence of the project with the Work Programme is not fully demonstrated** and lacks clarity. For instance, it is unclear how the host institution would increase research excellence and international visibility from the project

ASPECTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT 2

SECTION 2 - IMPACT

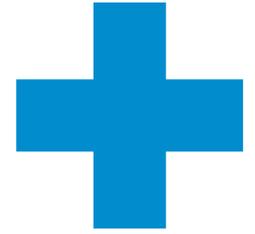
■ Proposed pathways towards impact

- ✓ Is the contribution of the project towards the 1) expected outcomes of the topic and 2) the wider impacts, in the longer term, as specified in the respective destinations of the WP, credible?
- ✓ Are potential barriers to the expected outcomes and impacts identified and mitigation measures proposed? Is the management of the potential negative impacts properly described?
- ✓ Are the scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts estimated and quantified (including baselines, benchmarks and assumptions used for those estimates)?

■ Measures to maximise impact – Dissemination, exploitation and communication (DEC)

- ✓ Are the proposed DEC measures suitable for the project and of good quality? All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project.
- ✓ Are the target groups (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) for these measures identified?
- ✓ Is the strategy for the management of IP outlined and suitable to support exploitation of results?

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Contributions to all the required outcomes** specified in the call are very well discussed in great detail
- **Both system and organisational impacts in the medium and long term are comprehensively considered and justified** (e.g., significant organisational improvement and research excellence, contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society, increased attractiveness of the host institution, increased intersectional mobility and networking and the enhancement of linkages to the private sector)
- **Means by which impact achievement will be measured is very well considered** with KPIs being clearly provided to evaluate the medium and long-term impacts of the proposal
- **Quality of proposed dissemination activities is excellent.** Journals and conferences for dissemination are precisely specified. Other envisaged actions are well considered and consistent with the expected outcomes of the work programme: for example, summer schools, training in IP, supporting funding applications and enhancing industry collaboration

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Communication activities are very convincing and credible**, e.g., communication through channels such as social media and public lectures are comprehensively considered. The communication foreseen with other related EU projects is also of merit in this respect.
- **Exploitation is very convincingly addressed**: for example, the support to be offered for spin-off companies, technology-transfer training, workshops for industry and the establishment of a dedicated valorisation sub-group
- **Protection of IP is very clearly explained**. Both the securing of IP rights at a European or international level as well as the signing of collaboration agreements with industrial or academic partners is well contemplated. The intended processes to be used for assessing IP opportunities and identifying related ethical issues are particularly noteworthy.
- **Expected impact is convincing, relevant and credible**. It includes precise institutional reforms, and credible initiatives aimed at circulation of knowledge and expertise, as well as improvement of linkages, mobility, contribution to knowledge-based economy and society. The target groups are effectively identified, including the broader scientific community, potential industry partners and spin-offs, the wider public, policy makers, and specific and well-thought actions are targeted at each of them.

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- **Impacts of the work programme at both the system and organizational level**, in terms of increasing the capacity by new infrastructures and platforms, recruitment of new national and international talents to increase the permanent staff of coordinating institutions, and strengthening education and entrepreneurial mentality **are not clearly underlined**
- **Proposal does not clearly identify the barriers and obstacles** to reach the expected impacts and a mitigation plan is insufficiently elaborated. The proposal lacks clear target values and a comprehensive set of key performance parameters to assess its impact
- **Measure to maximize the expected outcomes and impact** related to the identification of appropriate target groups and actions to reach them on a realistic scale **are not convincingly demonstrated**
- Proposal **partially fails to describe the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes**, since only the possible impact through scientific contributions is sufficiently detailed
- **KPIs are insufficiently elaborated**, such as the number of conference papers, of website visitors, of hired persons or participants in different events

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- Contribution scale is slightly unclear and ambiguous as the **proposal refers to different scientific areas of working groups in different places of the proposal**: mostly focused on physics, chemistry and material science, but it also mentions mathematics, economics, social, biology or engineering
- **Exploitation plan towards industry or the stakeholders is insufficiently addressed**. The handling of intellectual property rights is addressed but insufficiently commented on
- Although, the **expected contributions** at the system level as well as organizational level are addressed they **are overestimated** and not shown to be feasible
- **Economical impact of the project is poorly discussed** and not well specified
- **No specific focus within the dissemination plan on the relevant scientific community** that would benefit most from the project or potential tech companies that could profit from it are sufficiently considered
- **Clear IPR strategy is missing**

ASPECTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT 3

SECTION 3 - IMPLEMENTATION

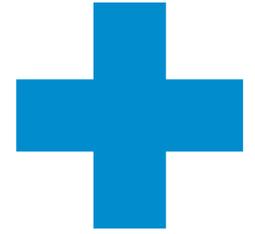
■ Proposed work plan, effort and resources

- ✓ Is the work plan of good quality and effective?
- ✓ Does it include quantified information so that progress can be monitored?
- ✓ Does it follow a logic structure (for example regarding the timing of work packages)?
- ✓ Are the resources allocated to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables?
- ✓ Are critical risks, relating to project implementation, identified and proper risk mitigation measures proposed?

■ Quality of participants and the consortium as a whole

- ✓ Does the consortium match the project's objectives, and bring together the necessary knowledge?
- ✓ Does the consortium include expertise in open science practices, and gender aspects of R&I?
- ✓ Are the participants complementing one another?
- ✓ In what way does each of them contribute to the project? Does each of them have a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role?

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Links and interdependencies between the work packages are clearly identified** and very well presented in the PERT diagram. Deliverables and milestones are appropriate and realistic
- **Risk assessment is comprehensive at both the consortium and project level.** Scientific, administrative and technology transfer risks are very clearly identified. The envisaged mitigation measures are appropriate and realistic
- **Selection of research personnel by an international recruitment panel** is very well described
- **Complementarity** between the scientific expertise of the proposed ERA chair holder and the researchers of the host institution **is very clearly demonstrated.** Together, both parties form a very well balanced consortium which has the potential to make excellent scientific contributions as well as significantly improving the competencies of the host
- Proposal **provides a detailed description of staff efforts**, the loads indicated being extremely well distributed overall. In particular, the work
- **Package related to the structural set-up and recruitment is extraordinary** and has an excellent amount of assigned resources what may very positively influence in its effectiveness

POSITIVE COMMENTS



- **Proposed ERA Chair holder has all the necessary expertise to fulfil the role**, with a very good track record of publications, teaching experience and coordination responsibilities. Moreover, there is clear commitment to work full time for this project and being physically present at the coordinator's premises. The prospective Chair Holder is also experienced in institutional reforms, has an international standing and is used to collaborating in and with advisory boards, which will be an added value for the proposal
- Proposal **demonstrates well the existing synergies between the hosting institution and the prospective Chair holder**. The roles and responsibilities between the ERA Chair holder and the hosting institution are well defined, especially regarding the co-construction of the scope of the reforms
- **Resources (person-months and budget) allocated to WPs are appropriate**. The host **institution guarantees additional own funds** for equipment to increase research capacity of the ERA Chair holder, which is highly significant

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- **Implementation work plan is focused mainly on the research project and bears multiple weaknesses.** The deliverables are mainly restricted to publications and conference reports. Several other shortcomings are identified, for example, deliverables of the proposed WPs are described only as research visits and lectures and the list of milestones is too long for the scale of the project
- **Gantt chart largely demonstrates the timeline of various scientific tasks** without a clear presentation of the timeline of other activities, which decreases its value in terms of monitoring project implementation
- **Allocation of resources** in terms of person/month and purchase costs **are not presented in a consistent clear manner** and adequately justified or aligned with the efforts ascribed to other different components of the proposal
- **Provided description of the managerial experience of the future ERA Chair does not clearly demonstrate his capacity to lead the proposed activities** at the coordinating institution, e.g., insufficient description is presented regarding their capacity to perform adequate allocation of responsibilities, to allow free appropriate resource allocation decisions, supervise team members and apply for research funding

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- **Overall structure of the work plan is presented but it is not convincing.** The inter-relation between work packages is unclear and the description of the work to be done is insufficiently detailed
- **Distribution of work between the work packages is unbalanced,** which leads to an unbalanced distribution of resources
- **Mitigation measures are briefly presented, without enough stress on the serious implications of critical risks,** e.g. the potential difficulty of recruiting world top researchers to fulfill the pre-defined roles
- **Details on the critical infrastructure** available for partners from hosting institutions to carry out project activities **are insufficiently presented**
- **Proposed human resources** for project organization and management **are not fully justified**
- **Strategy for recruiting new members for the team from abroad lacks credibility**
- Most of the **resources for promotional purposes are not shown to be necessary** and its cost is not justified. **Other purchasing costs are not clearly presented** as they are not further broken down

REA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUALITY PROPOSAL PREPARATION (INCLUDING THE LINKS TO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS) FROM 9 FEBRUARY 2023



RECOMMENDATIONS 1

- **Describe the current status quo in your institution – bear in mind that a SWOT analysis is the basis of a good proposal**
- **Be self-critical and concentrate on the weaknesses and threats as these are the main reason why you prepare the proposal**
- Do not forget to take them fully into account in the Work plan, in the Work packages, tasks etc.
- Objectives must correspond to the text of the call and to the introduction of the Work Programme, the main objective and specific objectives must be well described
- Text should clear and concise, use simple short sentences, avoid buzzwords and unnecessary words, do not repeat passages and use short paragraphs – help the evaluators to orientate easily in the text
- **Choose catchy acronym and title, and pay attention to the formulation of the abstract**
- Describe the linkages or interconnectedness with national and regional RIS3 and other strategies
- Communication and dissemination: provide detailed info on activities targeting different stakeholder groups, organise a press conference (WP C&D) as a side event to the project kick off meeting (WP Management)
- **DO NOT CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE TEMPLATE and use the terminology of the call**

RECOMMENDATIONS 2

- Citation of international sources – limit references to national studies and projects (if they are only in your language)
- Bear in mind that this is an administrative submission, and not a scientific publication – use more journalistic style and always have the proposal read by someone outside the consortium (colleagues, NCPs...)
- Limit the use of abbreviations
- Refer to important documents – EU or global strategies
- Updated website of the institution (at least basic English version necessary – European and international R&I projects in which your institution participated should be easily searchable)
- Stress the added value of the project to your region, country, EU and even the world 😊
- **Download the CSA template immediately after the submission system is opened**
- **Start with the proposal writing ASAP**
- **DO NOT FORGET that the lump sum funding model is more time consuming for preparation and requires more details – start working on the budget at an early stage**

RECOMMENDATIONS 3

- **Read carefully the ERA Chairs 2023 call FAQs** - concise document can be downloaded here



NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH

HORIZON EUROPE News Calendar Success Stories Calls Structure of Horizon Europe and ERA **FAQ** CZ EN

Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA **Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence**

Information Calls National contact Calendar Documents Links **FAQ** Linked initiatives Success Stories

Documents to download

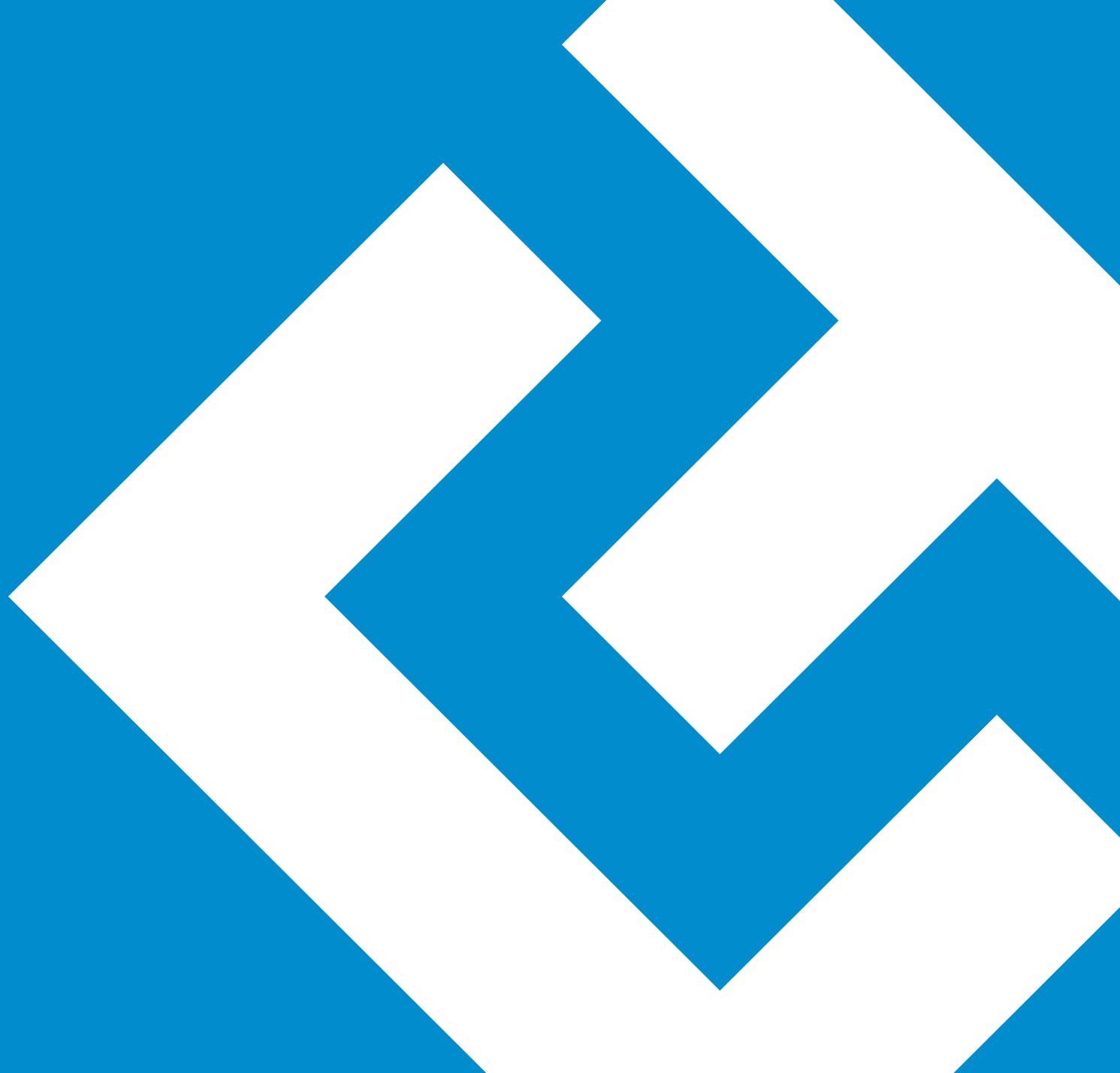
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FAQs for European Excellence Initiative 2023 call (by 8. 2. 2023) /files_public/elfinder/3714/FAQS EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE INITIATI...		FAQs for ERA Talents 2022 call (as of 12 September 2022) /files_public/elfinder/3064/FAQS ERA TALENTS 2022.pdf	

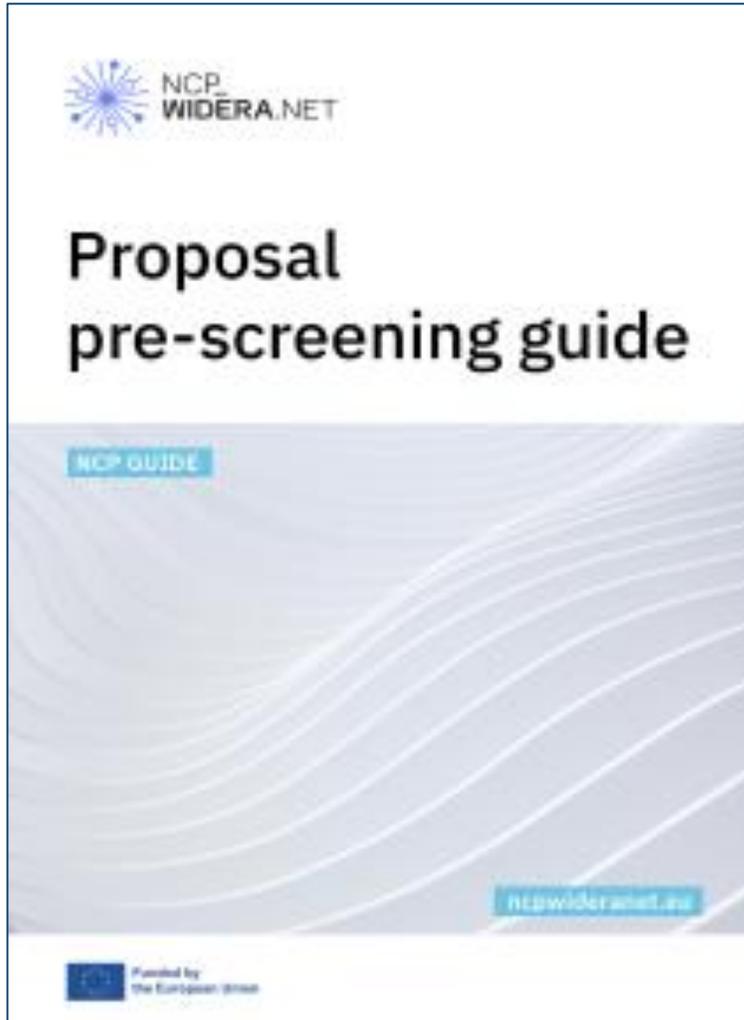


INFORMATION SOURCES

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PROPOSAL PRE-SCREENING GUIDE



USEFUL INFORMATION

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01

- 6 December 2022  **Publication of the Horizon Europe work programme for 2023-2024**
[Work programme](#)
- 12 December 2022  **Info Day**
[Watch the recordings](#)
- 28 September 2023  **Launch of the call for proposals**
[Apply through the Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- 7 March 2024  **Deadline for applicants to submit a proposal**
- August 2024  **Applicants informed if their proposal has been selected (tbc)**



NCP_WIDERA.NET NEWSLETTER

We run a monthly newsletter about policy developments, events and publications related to the WIDERA programme. We also keep our readers posted about the outcomes of our project and share news and insights from other NCP networks. [You can subscribe here.](#) You can also have a look at our past issues below.

Horizon Europe: Widening participation and spreading excellence



Under Horizon Europe, the European Commission funds research and innovation projects to strengthen research and innovation across Europe.

The ['Widening participation and spreading excellence' sub-programme](#) ^{<EN | ...>} contributes to building research and innovation capacity for countries lagging behind, in line with the policy objectives of the [European Research Area](#) ^{<EN | ...>}.

USEFUL INFORMATION



- EC dedicated web page on **Lump sum funding** in Horizon Europe
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum>
- **Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal?**
19 October 2023, 10:00 – 12:00, main focus of the meeting is on how lump sum funding works and what to consider when writing a lump sum proposal
- **CORDIS** (project basic data including abstracts and objectives, reporting and results)
[ERA Chairs 2022 projects](#)
[ERA Chairs H2020 projects](#)
- REA Report on **ERA Chair dynamics in the Widening programme**
(analysing the flows of the ERA Chair holders from their origin to destination and other issues)



Horizon Europe – Dissemination and exploitation

PAGE CONTENTS

[Requirements](#)

[Free-of-charge dissemination and exploitation services](#)

[Dealing with non-Commission publishing houses](#)

[Further advice and resources for beneficiaries](#)

[Further resources for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellows and coordinators](#)

Requirements

Beneficiaries of Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 funding must carry out activities to increase the impact of their project results:

- They must share research results with the scientific community, commercial players, civil society and policymakers ('dissemination').
- They must also take action to use their project results for commercial purposes, to tackle societal problems or in policymaking ('exploitation').

Dissemination and exploitation are a requirement as per your grant agreement, in addition to your communication activities. Check our [quick guide on communication, dissemination and exploitation](#)

EN | ...

Free-of-charge dissemination and exploitation services

The European Commission offers various free-of-charge services to support your dissemination and exploitation activities:

[Open Research Europe platform](#): An open access, publishing platform for scientific papers for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries, including an open peer review and article revision.

[Horizon Results platform](#): A platform for showcasing your research results, finding collaboration opportunities and getting inspired by the results of others.



QUESTIONS?

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